

REMARKS

This application has been amended so as to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

The Official Action objects to claim 2 based on an identified informality. Please note that applicant has amended such claim to eliminate the basis for such objection, and reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are therefore respectfully requested.

The Official Action rejects claims 1-5 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested for the following reasons:

The Official Action identifies language in each of claims 1, 2, and 5 considered to be indefinite. Please note that applicant has amended each of the identified claims to eliminate the bases for this rejection.

The Official Action rejects claims 1, 6, and 7 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over OKUNO 6,006,044 in view of LEITMANN 3,130,990. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested for the following reasons:

The Official Action offers the primary OKUNO reference for teaching all of the features recited in the rejected claims with the exception of the slip prevention claw. The secondary

LEITMANN reference is offered for teaching or suggesting this feature.

Please note that applicant has amended independent claim 1 to recite a plurality of fitting arms, with each of such fitting arms having a free end pressing against a first wall surface of the spring attachment hollow. Furthermore, amended independent claim 1 recites at least one slip prevention claw recited as engaging the same first wall surface as the plurality of fitting arms.

Neither the primary OKUNO reference nor the secondary LEITMANN reference teaches or suggests such features. The OKUNO reference discloses neither a fitting arm nor a slip prevention claw. The secondary LEITMANN reference discloses a triangular barb 24 construed as a slip prevention claw. However, it is clear from Figures 3 and 4 that the triangular barb 24 engages flat bottom surface 22 of the bore 21. This is clearly a different surface than that of the area 23 against which the leaf spring 14 makes contact. Accordingly, the LEITMANN reference teaches that the flexible arm makes contact with a first surface, while the claw makes contact with a second, different surface.

Accordingly, the combination of references clearly fails to teach or suggest the invention recited in amended independent claim 1.

Amended independent claim 6 recites that the support section comprises two slots extending inward from an end of the support section, with the two slots dividing the end of the support section into three arms. The two outer arms terminate in slip prevention claws, while the inner arm is a fitting arm. The slip prevention claws are arranged to engage the wall surface of the spring attachment hollow. Applicant notes that neither LEITMANN nor OKUNO teaches or suggests such the combination of three arms separated by two slots.

Applicant has also amended independent claim 7 to explicitly recite that the fitting arm presses against a first planar wall surface, and a slip prevention claw engages the same first planar wall surface. As discussed above in connection with amended independent claim 1, such feature is neither taught nor suggested by the combination of references.

The Official Action rejects claims 2-5 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over OKUNO in view of LEITMANN, and further in view of PURCELL 4,624,592. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested for the following reasons:

The additional PURCELL reference is offered merely for its asserted teaching or suggestion of the spring having a U-shaped plate, a pressing arm, and a fitting arm. However, irrespective of the ability of this reference to teach or suggest

that for which it is offered, it fails to overcome the shortcomings of the OKUNO and LEITMANN references, considered above. Applicant notes that each of the rejected claims ultimately depends from claim 1, the amendment of which is discussed above in connection with the preceding obviousness rejection.

In addition to the amendments described above, applicant has added new claims 8-11. Of these, claims 8 and 9 depend ultimately from claim 1, and claims 10 and 11 depend ultimately from claim 6. These new claims recite additional features that are also neither taught nor suggested by the applied references.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

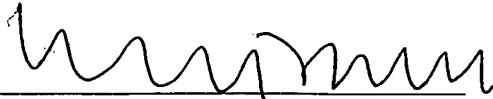
The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional
fees required under 37 C.F.R. \$1.16 or under 37 C.F.R.\$1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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